GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:326
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2001
GROUND WATER POLLUTION
SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps initiated by the Government for checking ground water pollution, which is increasing rapidly due to indiscriminate use of chemicals and fertilizers;

(b) whether the Union Government have sponsored research projects in various states, particularly in Punjab to offer other traditional organic alternatives to farmers in place of man-made chemicals and fertilizers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 326 to be answered on 20.3.2001 regarding Ground Water Pollution.

(a) to (c): The ground water pollution is caused by various contaminants like iron, fluoride, nitrate, arsenic, heavy metal, salts etc. The Central Ground Water Board has carried out studies regarding contamination of ground water due to inorganic substances, chemicals and heavy metals in various parts of the country.

Measures taken to mitigate the problem of ground water pollution are as follows:-

(i) The Central Government has set up the Central Ground Water Authority to regulate and control ground water management and development.

(ii) Mass awareness and education programmes have been launched on the significance of water economy, efficient utilisation, health, hygiene and sanitation.

(iii) Central Pollution Control Board has adopted several measures like directing the industries through State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluents within the stipulated standards, to set up network of ambient water quality monitoring stations, to initiate scheme to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants and to take up quality scheme of monitoring in critically polluted areas.

(iv) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has funded a research study project which has shown nitrate pollution in Ludhiana district of Punjab.

(v) The ICAR has also published a ground water quality map of India (First approximation).

The ICAR has sponsored research projects related to organic fertilizers in different parts of the country. A statement indicating statewise number of such projects is enclosed at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

STATEWISE ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS RELATED TO ORGANIC FERTILIZERS SPONSORED BY I.C.A.R.

Name of the State	Number of Projects
Punjab	1
Haryana	4

Uttar Pradesh	9
Himachal Pradesh	4
Rajasthan	1
Bihar	5
West Bengal	3
Orissa	2
Madhya Pradesh	9
Maharashtra	6
Andhra Pradesh	2
Tamil Nadu	8
Karnataka	4
Kerala	2
Delhi	3
Gujarat	1
Gujarat	1
Assam	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Total	66